

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A contact zone of a quenching chamber which is arranged symmetrically about a central axis of the chamber and is filled with an insulating medium, having at least two stationary consumable contacts which are in the form of contact rings and which, when the quenching chamber is closed, are electrically conductively connected by means of a bridging contact which is arranged centrally and can move axially and having electrically insulating covers, which at least partially cover mutually facing end surfaces,

wherein a wedge-shaped annular gap, which is open in the radial direction and originates from contact-making edges of the insulating covers, is provided between a contact-making surface and an insulating cover ~~and~~

wherein the edges are dielectrically shielded by means of an annular bead which projects beyond the contact-making surface,

said insulating cover having a cross section in a region where it covers the contact-making surface, and

extends in the axial direction

2. (Previously Presented) The contact zone as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the edge is arranged in the immediate vicinity of the annular bead.

3. (Currently Amended) The contact zone as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the ~~cover has a rectangular~~ cross section of the cover in the region where it covers the contact-making surface is rectangular and

~~wherein an elastic projection is integrally formed as a rim, which extends in the axial direction, externally on this rectangular cross section.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The contact zone as claimed in claim 3,

wherein the rim is provided with means which allow the cover to be connected mechanically to the contact ring, and

wherein the mechanical connection is made such that the edge is always pressed in a sprung manner against the contact-making surface.

5. (Previously Presented) The contact zone as claimed in claim 4,

wherein the mechanical connection is designed to be detachable.

6. (Previously Presented) The contact zone as claimed in claim 5,

mechanical connection.